



February 19, 2014

Councilmember Russ Stark
310-D City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Stark,

I'm writing on behalf of St. Paul Smart Trips to express our support for the third phase of the Marshall Avenue Green Streets project, which calls for a planted median to be installed along Marshall Avenue between Cleveland Avenue and Moore Street. St. Paul Smart Trips is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to improve access and mobility for those who travel in and around Saint Paul. To fulfill this mission, we partner with individuals, organizations and government across Saint Paul and maintain a 15-member board of directors that reflects this diversity of interests.

It is our belief that improving access and mobility for everyone in Saint Paul, regardless of age, ability or income requires safe and walkable streets. By creating places where people want to spend time, we can form the foundation for a more livable Saint Paul. Raised medians are a great strategy for improving livability as they can transform streets that divide neighborhoods into streets that unite neighbors.

Raised medians are effective tools for increasing pedestrian safety. According to the Federal Highway Administration, providing raised medians has resulted in reducing pedestrian crashes by 46 percent at marked crosswalks and 39 percent at unmarked crosswalks nationally. The same research says that raised medians provide many additional benefits beyond increased pedestrian safety, including:

- Reducing motor vehicle crashes by 15 percent
- Decreasing delays for motorists by as much as 30 percent
- Reducing vehicle speeds on the roadway

Beyond being good for residents and visitors, safe and walkable streets are good for business. Streets that serve multiple modes encourage customers to enjoy the convenience of shopping locally. For these customers, getting there becomes an enjoyable part of the shopping experience, not a traffic and parking headache.

We believe that transforming this section of Marshall into a safer street for all users will help broaden the customer base for local businesses and will enhance the livability of this unique Saint Paul neighborhood. We encourage the city to partner with Macalester College to complete this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Treat".

Jessica Treat
Executive Director
jessica@smart-trips.org